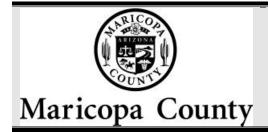
for immediate release





ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL 2323 S. 35th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009 pets.maricopa.gov

Feb 19, 2003

For more information, contact Julie Bank at (602) 506-3471, pager (602) 229-3879.

AC&C INTRODUCES THE LOVE, LEASH AND LICENSE PROGRAM

Every pet adopted at AC&C will be microchipped to ensure their identification

(PHOENIX) - Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (AC&C) is committed to reuniting lost pets with their families. To increase the number of animals that go home, AC&C is introducing it's *Love, Leash, and License* program on Friday, February 21st. Love, Leash, and License is a program that educates about the responsibilities of having a pet and makes it easier for the public to get identification so their pet can be returned home if lost.

"One of AC&C's biggest frustrations is the number of animals that come into our care centers without current identification," says Ed Boks, Director, AC&C. "If your pet did have identification our field officers could return him home immediately without having to bring him down to the shelter."

On Friday, AC&C will show our commitment to identification by microchipping every pet adopted from our animal care centers. "From now on, not only will your new adopted pet leave our buildings with a pet license, he will also get an AVID micropchip which offers you a permanent identification," says Ed Boks.

The **Love, Leash and License** program offers the following reminders to pet quardians in Maricopa County:

- Remember to change your address information with AC&C if you move.
- If you lose a pet visit both of the AC&C animal care centers (2630 W. 8th St and 2323 S. 35th Ave) and www.1888pets911.com. Also visit the AHS Sunny Slope facility at 9226 N. 13th Ave.
- By following all of the animal care laws you will ensure that your pet stays protected.
 Laws include keeping your dog confined inside or behind a fence, purchasing a pet license yearly and providing food, water, and medical care for your pet. Visit pets.maricopa.gov for more information on what's required of you as a pet guardian in Maricopa County and on pet licensing.
- Visit <u>pets.maricopa.gov</u> to see photos and a list of adoptable and lost pets at AC&C care centers.